



**MONTANA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 3.13.15  
HB 582

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Brad Johnson, Chairman  
Travis Kavulla, Vice Chairman  
Kirk Bushman, Commissioner  
Roger Koopman, Commissioner  
Bob Lake, Commissioner

March 13, 2015

Rep. Art Wittich, Chairman  
House Human Services Committee  
Montana State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

**Re: House Bill 582**

Dear Chairman Wittich and members of the House Human Services Committee:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) unanimously opposes HB 582 (the Catastrophic Health Care Costs Act) solely because of one section of the bill. Section 10 requires the PSC to conduct a multi-faceted and complex study of multiple health care cost issues. As members of the Committee are aware, the PSC regulates public utilities and certain motor carriers; **the PSC has absolutely no expertise or experience in the field of health care costs.** For that reason, the PSC is not the appropriate state agency to conduct the Section 10 study. In addition, the PSC believes the \$150,000 appropriated in the bill for the Section 10 study will not be sufficient to contract with experienced and knowledgeable health care consultants to complete a study of the scope and magnitude required by Section 10.

The PSC requests that the Committee amend Section 10 to remove the PSC from involvement with a health care facility costs study that is entirely outside this agency's purview.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Johnson".

Brad Johnson, Chairman  
Montana Public Service Commission